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The New Dawn

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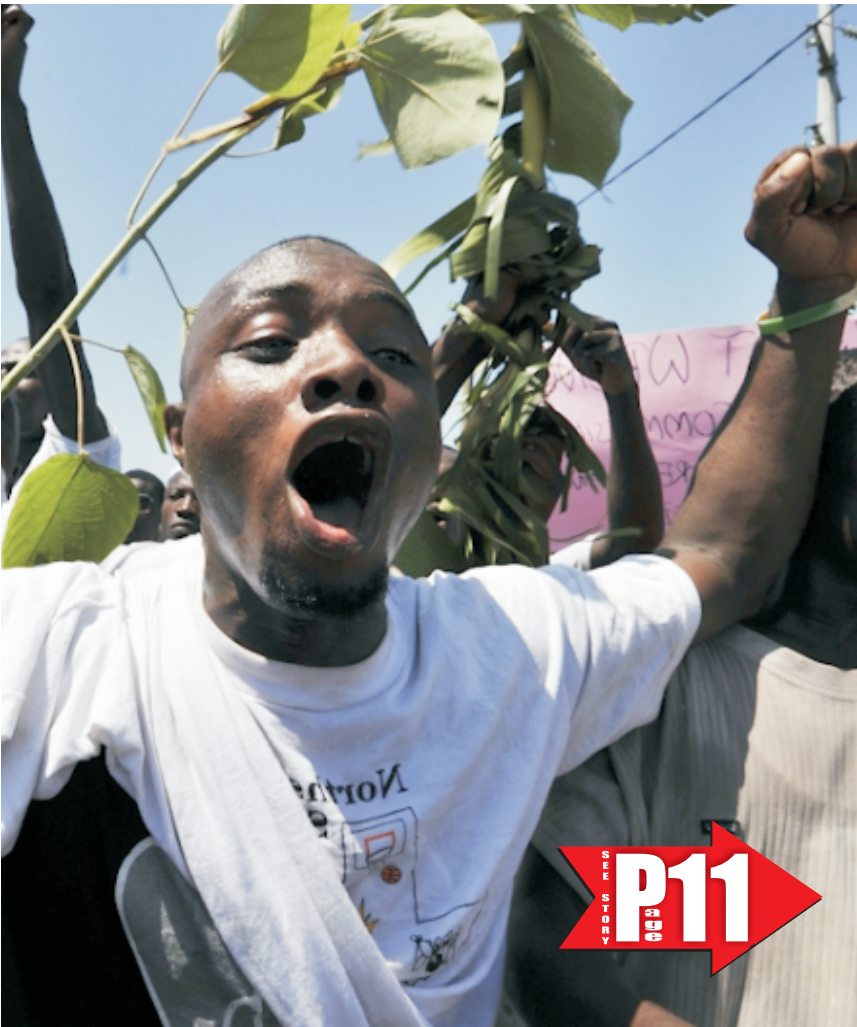
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Fire for fire

Trouble in Bong



-Court, police stations set ablaze



Continental News

William Ruto's foes in new pact

A team of lawmakers opposed to Deputy President William Ruto, who are drawn from the ruling party and opposition, on Sunday continued piling pressure on the government to arrest top officials linked to corruption scandals.

The group initially called itself Mt Kenya and Diaspora Leaders Forum but it seems to have gained a boost after Orange Democratic Movement, Wiper Democratic Movement and Kanu members joined the bandwagon.

The group said it shall crisscross the country mounting pressure on the government to arrest and prosecute any leader linked to corruption regardless of their social status and their positions. Led by former Jubilee Party vice-chairperson David Murathe, the team camped in Murang'a where they attended service at the Gatanga Catholic Church and later held a rally at the Gatura shopping centre.

Mr Murathe said the time

has come for everyone linked to corruption to have a date with the courts.

Citing the conviction of South Korea's former president, the former Jubilee Party official, who is an avowed opponent of Mr Ruto's 2022 presidential bid, said no one should be spared if they

have been linked to corruption.

"We have witnessed former presidents in Korea and other countries being arrested and charged in court over corruption and Deputy President William Ruto is not indispensable," he said.

MURATHE CLAIM



Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto

Xenophobic attacks spark South African response

South Africa's foreign minister has called an urgent meeting with ambassadors following attacks against foreigners in Durban.

A week ago, three people died amid protests targeting shops, many of which are foreign-owned.

Around 50 people sought shelter at a police station when a group of unemployed South Africans forced them out of their homes in the night.

Foreigners are targeted by

people who accuse them of taking jobs from locals. About 100 people attacked small food shops on Sunday night and into Monday morning, looting and burning the buildings.

One woman died when she fell through a roof while she was running away from protesters.

Another two people died from gunshot wounds, allegedly inflicted by a shopkeeper.

Last Tuesday foreigners

started seeking shelter in a mosque and a police station.

The minister of international relations and co-operation, Lindiwe Sisulu, urged the police to act against people targeting foreigners.

"All criminal activities and looting of properties of foreign nationals will not be tolerated, and the police and other law-enforcement agencies must act without fear or favour," she said in a statement.

She has organised a meeting with African diplomats on Monday. Some people complain about foreigners working in South Africa where unemployment is painfully high - standing at more than 27% at the end of last year. Xenophobia against migrants from other African countries is not new in South Africa. In 2015 unrest in the cities of Johannesburg and Durban claimed seven lives as immigrants were hunted down and attacked by gangs.

South Africa experienced its worst outbreak of violence against foreigners in 2008, when more than 60 people died. BBC



Lindiwe Sisulu says attacks on foreign-owned shops should not be tolerated

Mr Murathe claimed he had talked with President Uhuru Kenyatta who assured him that action will be taken soon.

"I asked the President on when he shall take action and he promised that it is just a matter of time before he cracks the whip," he claimed.

The over 20 leaders who were hosted by Gatanga MP Nduati Ngugi accused those opposed to handshake with opposition figure Raila Odinga of desperate attempts to scuttle the newfound unity.

They said those opposed to Mr Kenyatta-Odinga truce are also against the fight against corruption because they are implicated.

The leaders, who included Murang'a Senator Irungu Kangata, Gladys Wanga, Tj Kajwang, Gathoni Wamuchomba, Maina Kamanda, James Nyikal, Robert Mbui, Khaleb Khamisi,

Maoka Maore, Beatrice Elachi, William Kamket, Mercy Gakuyo, Joshua Kutuny, claimed that Mr Ruto was behind a motion filed by Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to strip off Directive of Criminal Investigations and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission of their powers to fight corruption.

NYORO MOTION

"If you see the dog bark look for the owner. The motion by Ndindi Nyoro is meant to curtail powers of DCI, EACC and DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) to fight corruption," Jubilee's nominated MP Maina Kamanda said.

Ruaraka MP Kajwang said they will oppose the motion and any effort meant to frustrate the anti-graft purge.

Kathiani MP Mbui said the President should name the corrupt in his government during the State of the Nation address on Thursday. Daily Nation

'We're not cleaners' - sexism amid Sudan protests

In our series of letters from African journalists, Zeinab Mohammed Salih considers why female protesters are angry with their male counterparts.

The anti-government protests in Sudan are unwavering despite a state of emergency imposed in February.

This is largely thanks to the efforts of the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which has been organising the demonstrations against President Omar al-Bashir's nearly 30-year rule.

The body represents health workers, lawyers and teachers, amongst others - though some would argue, not women - even though it is estimated that more than 70% of the protesters who have been out on the streets since December are female.

The SPA got itself into hot water when it suggested that instead of a day of scheduled protests on Saturday 9 March, people come out instead to clean the streets.

The streets of the capital, Khartoum, are particularly mucky - and it was felt that a good tidy up would restore a sense of pride in the city.

Since the protests began, the SPA has been particularly praised for the beautiful language used in its statements



calling for action.

However, in this instance it struck the wrong tone - urging women in particular to come out for the task because they "cared more about cleaning". The message was met with outrage by many female protesters - and sparked a debate on social media about the sexism of the uprising.

A day later, the SPA, which has female spokesperson, issued a contrite apology.

These protests began in reaction to a hike in bread prices - and then mushroomed into the most serious challenge to Mr Bashir's hold on power since an Islamist-backed coup in 1989.

Likewise, the street-cleaning faux pas began as anger about the sexist attitudes of male protesters and has mushroomed into anger about how women are treated in Sudanese society. BBC

EDITORIAL

Electoral reform is an imperative

THE ELECTIONS COORDINATING Committee (ECC) struck an important cord at a recent stakeholders' conference in Monrovia, reiterating the need for reform of our electoral laws, beginning with the Constitution of Liberia.

THE ECC IN a statement specifically points to Article 83 (C) of the Constitution of Liberia, which delegate judicial powers to the National Elections Commission and places additional and unnecessary burden on the NEC besides its original mandate to organize and conduct elections.

UNDER THE THEME: "Strengthening Liberia's Democracy through Electoral Reform" ECC Chair Oscar Bloh argued that no matter how much changes are made within the New Elections Laws of the country in terms of rules and responsibilities of Magistrates, Hearing Officers, Chief Hearing Officer and Board of Commissioners on electoral disputes, the NEC remains the court of first instance for all electoral petitions, which means the Commission has to investigate allegations, hear witnesses, study the evidence, allow legal arguments and so forth before handling down ruling with adverse affects, including delay.

WE AGREE WITH the ECC proposition on the need to reform our processes and laws in order to conduct peaceful and credible elections in Liberia that would correspondingly promote national reconciliation and sustain peace and economic development.

ELECTIONS ARE ONE of the key ingredients in fostering participatory democracy and pluralism in our governing system, but when the processes associated with the exercise are found wanting, the present flash points that should not be ignored.

CHAIRMAN BLOH OBSERVED that elections do not guarantee democracy, but at the same time, they are a fundamental requirement to give legitimacy to any democratic government. He noted that while it is true that elections are grounded in laws, they are equally about perception, and that is why it is important at all times that electoral processes are perceived by voters to be impartial, inclusive, transparent and marked by integrity.

IT IS DUE to the perception challenge that it is even more urgent to review and reform the laws governing the process, for what is the essence of laws if they lack convenience or pose perception problem.

WE ALL ARE witnesses to the ugly experiences from the 2017 Presidential and Representative Elections, when results from the first round of the presidential poll were legally challenged by one of the candidates, leading the NEC to suspend all other activities, pending investigation of the complaint filed. The legal battle was sustained between the NEC and the Supreme Court, while creating economic and political uncertainty from October to December, 2017 with adverse consequences in terms of economic stability.

WHILE ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL election is five years away, it is about time we take a deep reflection and make those necessary reforms to avoid future embarrassment.

AS CHAIRMAN BLOH stressed, given human errors, inadequate laws and infrastructural challenges, it is difficult to organize and conduct perfect electoral process in the country, noting that every election creates opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the electoral process and to review the laws in order to identify challenges and take appropriate measures to addressing them. A stitch in time, it is often said, saves nine.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Robert J. Shiller

Was the Stock-Market Boom Predictable?

While the conventional wisdom holds that it is never possible to "time the market," it might seem that major shifts - like the quadrupling of the US stock market over the last decade - should be at least partly foreseeable. Why aren't they?

NEW HAVEN - Should we have known in March 2009 that the United States' S&P 500 stock index would quadruple in value in the next ten years, or that Japan's Nikkei 225 would triple, followed closely by Hong Kong's Hang Seng index? The conventional wisdom is that it is never possible to "time the market." But moves as big as these, it might seem, must have been at least partly foreseeable.

The problem is that no one can prove why a boom happened, even after the fact, let alone show how it could have been predicted. The US boom since 2009 is a case in point.

In looking at the US stock market, it is important to bear in mind that its participants are overwhelmingly US investors. According to a US government study published last year, despite some growth between 2009 and 2017, the share of the US stock market owned by foreigners was still only about one-seventh in 2017. But if all people heeded financial advisers' counsel and were completely diversified, people outside the US, who held more than two-thirds of the world's wealth as of last year, would own over two-thirds of the US stock market as well. Home-country bias, or patriotism, is a big factor in the stock market. So, to understand the US stock market's strength, we need to consider the thinking of its participants.

There seems to have been an overreaction in the US to a temporary drop in earnings. S&P 500 earnings per share had been negative (a very rare event) in the fourth quarter of 2008, both for "reported earnings" and for "operating earnings," and those numbers were just coming in around March 2009, when the index reached its nadir.

You might think that an intelligent observer in the US in 2009 would have recognized that the decline was temporary, and would have expected earnings - which are relevant to forecasting long-term growth of stock prices - to recover. But the real question is whether the observer could have based a very optimistic forecast for long-term earnings growth on the rebound from that negative earnings moment. We now know that long-term measures of earnings growth did not change a lot. Ten-year average S&P 500 earnings per share from 2009 to 2019 were up only 71% from the previous decade. The quadrupling in the S&P 500 price index was thus driven not by higher earnings but by much higher valuations of earnings.

It is true that real interest rates are down since 2009, with the ten-year US Treasury Inflation-Protected Security yielding 0.8% in February, down from 1.71% in March 2009. But all of that decline occurred by 2010 and could not justify any of the strong uptrend in stock prices since then.

In 2009, some people in the US were using very strong language to express their fear. One heard that a "financial supernova" was coming. A ProQuest News & Newspapers search for "derivatives" and "financial weapons of mass destruction" (a phrase attributed to Warren

Buffett) shows that these two terms first appeared together in 2003 and gained intense popularity by 2009, only to fade to near nothing by 2018.

Those who were prescient enough to know that derivatives markets weren't going to blow up the economy might have known that any drag on the market from the fear that they would could not be sustained for ten years. But a forecast based on such prescience is hard to quantify or defend publicly.

The fact that economists on the whole had not predicted the 2008 financial crisis was much emphasized at the time and led to some lost faith. Many people were worrying in March 2009 that stocks had a lot further to fall.

Under my direction, the Yale School of Management has been collecting data on the opinions of both institutional and individual investors in the US since 1989. One of the questions is: What do you think is the probability of a catastrophic US stock-market crash, like that of October 28, 1929 or October 19, 1987, in the next six months, including a crash caused by financial contagion from other countries? In early 2009, the percentage of people who gave a probability greater than 10% reached a record high (since 1994).

Likewise, ProQuest News & Newspapers counts of the frequency of the phrase "Great Depression" soared to unprecedented heights. There were more mentions of "Great Depression" in 2009 than there were during the Great Depression.

But then, with no stock-market crash and no extreme depression in sight, these fears were replaced by their opposite: deeper admiration of business success. A new narrative emerged, featuring a new wave of billionaire geniuses whose appearance in the 1990s was interrupted only briefly by the financial crisis. The publication in 2011 of the number-one best seller Steve Jobs, Walter Isaacson's biography of the Apple founder, is one example. Elon Musk has stirred excitement with futuristic companies such as aerospace manufacturer SpaceX and Neuralink, which is developing implantable brain-computer interfaces.

The accession of a flamboyant businessman, Donald Trump, to the US presidency is evidence of the strength of many Americans' identification with business heroes. Starting in 2004, Trump spent much of his time developing his business persona as the star of the reality TV show The Apprentice, and then, from 2008, The Celebrity Apprentice. His campaign marshaled this enthusiasm, and his claim that he would "Make America Great Again" appealed to the optimism of US investors.

The quadrupling of US stock prices since 2009, as well as Trump's election, thus appears to reflect, at least in part, a process of fear abatement and re-enchantment with American business culture. But it is hard to forecast such trends - even the biggest - in the stock market, not only because forecasting is a highly competitive business, but also because spontaneity plays such an important role in human behavior.

O-PED

By Jean Pisani-Ferry

Europe and the New Imperialism

PARIS - Imperialism, Lenin wrote a century ago, is defined by five key features: the concentration of production; the merging of financial and industrial capital; exports of capital; transnational cartels; and the territorial division of the world among capitalist powers. Until recently, only dyed-in-the-wool Bolsheviks still found that definition relevant. Not anymore: Lenin's characterization seems increasingly accurate.

A few years ago, globalization was assumed to dilute market power and stimulate competition. And it was hoped that greater economic interdependence would prevent international conflict. If there were early-twentieth-century authors to refer to, they were Joseph Schumpeter, the economist who identified "creative destruction" as a driving force of progress, and the British statesman Norman Angell, who argued that economic interdependence had made militarism obsolete. Yet we have entered a world of economic monopolies and geopolitical rivalry.

The first problem is epitomized by the US tech giants, but it is in fact widespread. According to the OECD, market concentration has increased across a range of sectors, in the US as well as in Europe; and China is creating ever-larger state-backed national champions. As for geopolitics, the US seems to have abandoned the hope that China's integration into the global economy would lead to its political convergence with the established liberal Western order. As US Vice President Mike Pence crudely put it in an October 2018 speech, America now regards China as a strategic rival in a new age of "great-power competition."

Economic concentration and geopolitical rivalry are in fact inseparable. Whereas the Internet was once seen as an open, universal, and competitive domain, it is being broken up into an archipelago of separate sub-systems, some of which are administered by governments. There are growing fears that the Chinese tech giant Huawei's dominance in 5G hardware could be used for geopolitical gain. And the German industry association BDI is now warning that China has entered into "systemic competition with liberal market economies," and is "pooling capacities for political and economic goals with high efficiency."

But the US, too, is repositioning, particularly in the realm of trade and investment. Recently enacted legislation has authorized the Department of the Treasury to target "strategically motivated" (read: Chinese) foreign investment that could "pose a threat to US technological superiority and national security," suggesting that the Trump administration intends to use investment screening to protect America's technological edge.

China is widely accused of mixing economics with politics. Yet this is equally true of the US. Consider the Trump administration's use of the dollar - which many used to consider a global public good - and its central role in global finance to impose secondary sanctions on foreign companies doing business with Iran. As a result, SWIFT, the EU-based financial messaging service, was forced to deny access to Iranian banks or risk losing its own access to the US financial system. Likewise, under pressure from the US, the Bundesbank last year blocked a large cash transfer to Tehran of an Iranian deposit at an Iranian-owned bank in Hamburg. Clearly, the US no longer feels any need for self-restraint in its use of monetary and financial might.

For Europe, these developments amount to a major shock. Economically, the European Union is a bellwether of the post-war liberal order: as a champion of competitive markets, it has repeatedly forced powerful foreign companies to abide by its laws. But geopolitically, the EU has always tried to keep economics and international relations separate - and thus felt at home in a multilateral, rules-based system, where the sheer exercise of state power is necessarily restrained. Nationalism and imperialism are its worst nightmares.

Europe's challenge now is to position itself in a new landscape where power matters more than rules and consumer welfare. The EU faces three big questions: whether to reorient its competition policy; how to combine economic and security objectives; and how to avoid becoming an economic hostage of US foreign-policy priorities. Answering these will require a redefinition of economic sovereignty.

Competition policy is a matter of fierce debate. Some want to amend EU antitrust rules to enable the emergence of European "champions." But such proposals are questionable. True, Europe needs more industrial-policy initiatives in fields like artificial intelligence and electric batteries, where it is at risk of falling behind other global powers. True, regulators issuing judgments on mergers and state aid should consider the increasingly global scope of competition. And true, static assessments of market power should be supplemented with more dynamic approaches that value innovation. But none of this changes the fact that in a world of corporate giants, we will need even stronger competition policies to protect consumers.

Economic logic and security concerns are easily conflated. A decision to reject a merger or authorize an investment that benefits a politically motivated foreign competitor might make economic sense, while raising eyebrows in foreign-policy circles. The solution is not to meddle with competition rules, but to give those in charge of security some say in the decision-making process. To that end, in a forthcoming paper that I co-authored with foreign-policy experts and other economists, we propose that the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security be given the right to object on security grounds to the European Commission's proposed mergers or investment decisions. EU member states already have such procedures in place, and so should the EU.

Finally, the EU must do more to develop its financial toolkit and promote international use of the euro. There should be no illusion that the euro will displace the dollar. But with the US signaling that it will use Wall Street and the greenback as foreign-policy instruments, Europe can no longer be a passive, neutral bystander. Through swap lines with partner central banks and other mechanisms, it can make the euro more attractive to foreigners while bolstering its own economic sovereignty.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson

The American Populist Reckoning

WASHINGTON, DC - Populism is an approach to government that relies on lavish promises that ultimately cannot be met. The most prominent historical cases since 1945 were, for a long while, mostly found in Latin America. There are always apologists who claim that a new source of economic miracle has been discovered. But the ending is always the same: some form of crisis and disaster. Populism today is again in the ascendancy, but now one of the most virulent forms is in the United States - and with the credibility of the central bank very much on the line.

Argentina under Juan Perón (1946-1955 and 1973-1974) and his successors is often held out as the canonical example of populist misrule. Each iteration of populism has its special features, but the general pattern is this: unsustainable wage increases, an overvalued exchange rate, and massive foreign borrowing (enabled by local recklessness and foreign short-sightedness). Critics are persecuted, experts disparaged, and ridicule piled onto anyone with any kind of reasonable concern. Central banks and other independent governmental bodies, such as courts, are always subverted through personnel changes and other pressures.

Then the reckoning comes, with some combination of inflation, significant exchange-rate devaluation, and a deep recession (or worse). All too often, the cycle then starts again with another round of promises that cannot possibly be met. The central bank's credibility, once dismantled, does not easily return.

Looking around the world today, Venezuela is an obvious Latin American example that experienced a recent version of populism (though sustained by oil revenues for longer than usual). With Venezuela now experiencing a classic populist collapse, who else is displaying obvious symptoms today?

The United Kingdom is one prominent potential case. It is entirely possible that Britain can still avoid the disaster of leaving the European Union in a way that avoids a massive disruption of trade. The worry, of course, is that the path to a soft landing remains unclear - and it is very late in the day, relative to the politically established deadlines (for the EU and for the UK).

Some British political leaders, mostly on the right, continue to play the populist card to a disconcerting degree. It remains to be seen whether they need to cause a collapse before the hollowness of their promises becomes self-evident.

The good news is that key UK institutions, including the Bank of England, remain strong and reasonably independent. Let's hope that this remains the case, regardless of what happens within the Conservative Party and to Prime Minister Theresa May's government.

A much bigger problem looms in the US, where President Donald Trump has combined disregard for the fiscal impact of tax cuts with an apparent desire to start trade wars. Now comes his most dangerous move to date: increased pressure on the Federal Reserve to stimulate the economy.

The pressure on the Fed is understandable in political terms, because the temporary sugar high of the tax cuts enacted at the end of 2017 is wearing off, and there is insufficient congressional support to cut taxes further. Expanding deficits already stretch as far as the eye can see. Although US economic growth is satisfactory, it is naturally slowing as the country reaches full employment. As a true populist, Trump has promised growth rates that are unattainable except through extraordinary and unsustainable measures - such as significant easing of monetary policy.

The Fed is weak politically today because it has had a bad 15 years. First, it not only oversaw but actually cheered on the breakdown in consumer protection that made rapacious real-estate lending possible in the run up to 2008. Then the Fed completely failed to understand how the structure of derivatives could amplify risks, so that what should have been a mild downward correction in house prices became a system-wide (and global disaster). Subsequently, the Fed attempted to make amends by easing credit to an unprecedented degree. Unfortunately, "cleaning up" in this fashion proved difficult and the damage to millions of lives remains all too tangible.

The defense mounted by Fed leaders at the time was that crises happen and nothing can be done about it. That view is entirely wrong. The US avoided serious financial crises from the 1940s to the early 2000s because good enough regulation remained in place.

Leading congressional Republicans spent a decade aiming their rhetorical fire at the wrong target within the Fed's sphere of activities, claiming that its post-crisis policies were "too loose" and would cause inflation. The Republican critique proved entirely without merit: inflation remained low. But the political damage was done, and now Trump's pressure for much looser monetary policy is being supported by members of Congress who previously argued for the exact opposite.

Now the Fed is weak, and Trump is clutching at straws, desperate to jack up growth by any means until the 2020 presidential election. He is packing the Fed's Board of Governors with people who want to say yes to him and will mobilize his base against Fed staff and regional bank presidents if they resist easing monetary conditions.

Could pumping up the economy in this fashion clear Trump's path to reelection? Trump has been lucky before, and the global economy looks relatively benign (unless Brexit brings bad surprises). And while all of Trump's macroeconomic promises will prove as ephemeral and fleeting as those of Perón, populism always lasts longer than most people think possible.

The reckoning, when it comes, will likely be different from that in Argentina or Venezuela. The US has a stronger, more diversified underlying economy with a better track record over the past century. And the dollar is used widely around the world, as reserves for central banks, as a private-sector store of value, and to invoice most international trade. The most likely outcome will be slower growth, further increases in inequality, and erosion of public services. And America's ability to out-innovate others, including China, will absorb another blow.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Supreme Court Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh was impeached last week Friday, 29 March by the Liberian Senate for granting a Writ of Prohibition petitioned by petroleum dealers here to stop government from collecting US\$0.30 (road fund) imposed on pump price of petroleum products.

The New Dawn asks some Liberians in Monrovia on the impeachment by the George Weah administration.



Janel Daye

"In as much I don't support the decision, but Ja'neh's records with past friends have been terrible. He is a very ungrateful person. Ascending to this position, he fell off with many of his friends whom he grew up with when he was nobody. This is Karma, sometime in life; your own record will bring you down even if there is a way out. What goes around, comes around. I am sorry for the impeachment. You [Ja'neh]

learned a lot, so go into private practice, self-employment is better than government job. May you see light through the tunnel."



O'neal Johnson

"We have a president, who has a manner of civil disorder and disrespect for the rule of law, now masterminding the impeachment of a refined state actor Justice Kabineh Mohammed Ja'neh, for his independent view. It's a broad effort to silent every independent voice and give rise to corruption for the sole purpose to enrich themselves. They [may have] succeeded in removing Justice Ja'neh, but the backfire will surely

lead to impeachment of the President himself. If it happened to Paul, it will surely happen to John."

Sam Gaye

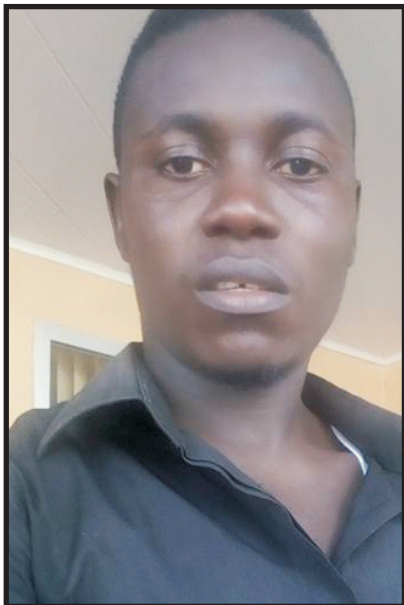
"Even when our leaders decide to violate the Constitution for their personal gain, we should respect them. Even they decide to bend the Constitution to suit their personal desires, we should respect them. The Constitution is meant to protect all Liberians, and not to be used to accomplish certain individual or a group's desire The Constitution is meant to protect all not few; they are our leaders but



when they choose to bend the Constitution for personal interest, they deserve no regard. These are not reason we voted them. We voted them to help strengthen the democracy and not to fraud the system."

Prince cooper

"If you read potion of the amended version, the petitioners accused the Associate Justice of the commission of 'theft of property, perjury, fraud and corruption', added to earlier charges of 'proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion and misuse of power.' Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, had no moral to [have sat] on a legal bench to determine someone's fate."



Emmanuel Toe

"What goes around, comes around. Yesterday, it was Snows, Tyler and others under the past government, so today, it is him. Tomorrow will be another person. Our judiciary is a joke, [We] keep celebrating our disregard for the rule of law, for this reason our country will be at a standstill for many years. I see this as not about witch hunt, it's about doing the right thing. The move by the House to impeach Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh in no way means

he's being witch-hunted. Article 43 states: "The power to prepare a bill of impeachment is vested solely in the House of Representatives, and the power to try all impeachments is vested solely in the Senate."

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Nigerian Pastor gets 10 years sentence

By Winston W. Parley

Convicted Nigerian Pastor Revival Womo Sam has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for trafficking a teenage Liberian girl to Nigeria whom he later impregnated.

He was indicted on 22 January 2019 in Montserrado for trafficking in person, kidnapping and statutory rape.

But in the course of the trial, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie transferred the rape charge to the Criminal Court "E" which has exclusive jurisdiction over rape and other sexual offenses here.

It is expected that defendant Sam faces further trial, this time at Criminal Court "E" for statutory rape.

Handing down the court's final judgment Monday, 1 April, Judge Willie rules that convict Sam will spend eight years behind bars, while the rest of the two years will be supervised by prison authorities.

This will depend on good behavior as will be reported by prison authorities.

Defendant Sam who runs the Global Revival Movement

here was earlier found guilty by a jury panel on Thursday, 21 March.

Due to several bad dreams reported by the victim, her parents turned her over to convict Sam in 2016 for spiritual cleansing.

But he began sexually abusing the teenage girl after she had stayed some time under his care.

However the victim who may now be in her 15 years testified during trial of the case that she was never a virgin when she had her first sex with Prophet Sam.

As time went by the victim's family demanded defendant Sam to return their daughter to them because they did not like how he exercised too much influence over the victim.

At the time they were here in Liberia, Judge Willie says convict Sam registered the victim in the J.W. Harris High School by using a fake change of name document from a purported lawyer.

The Judge says defendant Prophet Sam gave false information to the school's registrar about the victim, and instructed the registrar that nobody should go behind him concerning information about the victim.

Convict Sam had managed to obtain some fake change of name documents to change the victim's name, secured

passport for her and travelled with her to Nigeria, using her as sexual servitude.

Her family travelled to Nigeria, exerted efforts and brought the victim back to Liberia, but convict Sam returned to Liberia too.

The victim's family however had suspicion that the convict was here to await the victim to give birth so that he could secretly take the baby away.

Convict Sam was reported to the police, leading to his arrest and charge for multiple crimes including human trafficking, statutory rape and kidnapping.



Convicted Nigerian Pastor Revival Womo

Weah departs Liberia for Senegal

President George Manneh Weah on Monday, 1 April departed Liberia for Dakar, Senegal to observe the host country's Independence Anniversary celebrations on April 4, 2019 and the inauguration of host President Macky Sall.

The Executive Mansion says President Weah will join more

While in Senegal, President Weah will hold discussion with Turkey Vice President, Fuat Oktay. The meeting is expected to center on improving and rekindling bilateral ties between Liberia and Turkey.

Also, on 3 April, President Weah and delegation will meet with several investors including executives of Group FESTO ALTAY, Global Green



President George Manneh Weah

Murder in 12th Street community

By Emmanuel Mondaye

An unidentified man believed to be a gas seller from Clara Town community in Bushrod Island has been found dead in 12th Street community adjacent Williams V.S. Tubman High School.

Sinkor.

A female resident, Josephine Lawson, explains that after enjoying themselves, the victim was intoxicated and decided to go home alone.

She adds that while the

succeeded in taking the victim from the community before hitting the back of his head with a sharp object, which may have resulted to his death.

Josephine observes unidentified friends, who accompanied the deceased before he was killed, are said to be at large, while police investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, this paper gathers the victim's relatives including his mother went on the crime scene and collected the corpse for immediate burial at the Muslim cemetery in Old Road, a suburb of Monrovia.

Police patrol officers, who went to the crime scene declined to speak to reporters on grounds that investigation is ongoing, and that no arrest has been made.

Similar incident occurred in the 12th Street community in 2018 when a resident identified as Gus Smith, was killed in front of his house and his corpse placed in a well, few kilometers away from his house.

He was reportedly returning from wake keeping of a neighbor when the attack on his life transpired. Other reports say the killers used syringe and pulled fresh blood from the victim's head before dumping his body in a well. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Community residents claim the victim was a member of the Mandingo tribe and resident of Clara Town.

They narrate the victim had left his Clara Town residence on 31 March to come see his grandmother in 9th Street,

victim was walking in the dark, criminals chased him for money and cell-phone.

According to her, the victim ran into the home of a lady for rescue, but was denied access despite pleading for his life.

She claims the criminals

than 20 world leaders gracing Senegal's Independence Anniversary celebrations and the inauguration of host President Sall for his second term in office.

President Sall's inauguration takes place on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 following a landslide victory in the country's general elections on February 24, 2019.

International Holdings and the Help Team.

While President Weah is away, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel Farlo McGill will chair and coordinate the Cabinet in consultation with the Vice President and in telephone conversation with the President.--Press release

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Swedish Ambassador rejects no support to Weah government claims

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Swedish Ambassador to Liberia Ingrid Wetterqvist has rejected speculation that the Swedish government is not in support of President George

in Bong County when she spoke to cross section of students.

It has been widely speculated in some quarters of the country that the Swedish government is not supporting the Coalition for Democratic

between her country and Liberia.

The Swedish envoy says her country has a big development program in Liberia, adding that Swedish government has been working with past governments and they will continue to work in Liberia.

According to her, the history of the Liberia-Sweden relationship dates back to the days of the Liberian-American-Swedish Mining Company (LAMCO) [operation in Liberia].

LAMCO is a defunct Liberian corporation that mined for iron ore in the Nimba range.

According to the Swedish Envoy, during that time Liberia was one of the biggest exporters of iron ore in the world and the mining production stood for more than half of the country's export.

For his part, Cuttington University president Dr. Herman Browne lauded the Swedish Ambassador for her visit on the School Campus.

Dr. Brown also presented an umbrella to the Swedish envoy as a sign of appreciation from the administration. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Manneh Weah's Pro - Poor Agenda for Prosperity Development.

The Swedish Envoy made the clarification recently at Cuttington University Campus

Change (CDC) government.

But Ambassador Ingrid Wetterqvist has rejected the allegation, describing it as a means of undermining the good working relationship

Weah breaks grounds for modern market

President George Manneh Weah has broken grounds for the construction of a modern state-of-the-art market structure in the Omega Community, Paynesville.

According to the Executive Mansion, President Weah drew enormous support from ordinary Liberians, most of them marketers and peddlers during the 2017 presidential campaign.

The Executive Mansion says President Weah had promised to help in improving environments in which the ordinary people make business.

On Friday, March 29, 2019, he broke grounds for a market facility he calls the "14th [Gobachop] International Market."

It's a US\$3.8 million project, funded by the Government of Japan and is being implemented by the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE).

The 14th Gobachop International Market being constructed by BM Construction Company is expected to contain distinct compartments for the sale of different food stuffs and other goods, including car park.

If completed, the Mansion

says the modern market will house 4,000 marketers and bring to an end their ordeal of selling their wares under unfavorable considerations that endanger their health, safety and their goods.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, President Weah terms the construction of the market a continuation of the fulfillment of promises he made to ordinary Liberians, mainly

marketers during the 2017 election campaign.

He says he had long empathized with Liberian marketers who make ends meet selling in scorching sun and under harsh raining conditions without a better place to transact their businesses.

"I once used to go to cookshops in this city to wash dishes as a way of being fed," President Weah recalls.

Considering his own difficult



President George Manneh Weah

LRA launches community outreach

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), along with several partners begins a 12-day Community Outreach Road Show that will intensify tax awareness and education in Monrovia and its environs, including parts of Lower Margibi County.

The exercise, which climaxes on April 25, will educate the general public in 12 selected communities on becoming a taxpayer, registering and paying real property taxes, obtaining tax identification numbers, registering small businesses as well as processes of registering and paying taxes through mobile money platforms.

According to a press release, sponsored by USAID/RG3 Project, the road show is being implemented by the LRA Taxpayers Service Division and Communications Section in collaboration with Lonestar Cell/MTN, Orange and Liberia Business Registry (LBR).

During the outreach which kicks off in Duala Community today, staff of the LRA, LBR and the two GSM Companies will on the spot register new businesses, help taxpayers to acquire Tax Identification Numbers, register their properties and enroll taxpayers on the Lonestar Cell/MTN and Orange mobile money platforms. They will be educated on how to pay their taxes from the comforts of their homes and businesses,

without going to the LRA, by using mobile money platforms.

The team will visit several other communities including St Paul Bridge, Caldwell, Waterside/Central Monrovia, Old-road/Airfield, Duport Road, ELWA /Rehab, Red Light, Coca-Cola Factory, Gardnersville/Barnesville Road, Fendall and Marshall/Boys Town. During the exercise, at least 100 new taxpayers, businesses and mobile wallet users will be registered.

LRA Assistant Commissioner for Taxpayer Service Division Winifred J. Valentine-Nah says the Road Show is part of many efforts undertaken by the LRA to reach out to the public to enhance tax awareness and compliance towards achieving Authority's Domestic Resource Mobilization strategy.

AC Valentine-Nah notes taxpayers need more simplified information on how to pay their taxes to help the country's development process; therefore, the outreach is intended to attract as many people as possible to get the needed information.

"We invite people of all classes in these earmarked communities to come out and learn everything they need to know about paying taxes and how to become a good taxpayer to contribute to the development of their country," she adds.

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time he experienced, President Weah says it has been his plan to change the lives of marketers once he is in the position.

"Now that I am in the position, I feel morally obliged to keep that promise," President Weah says.

He notes that he is not a politician, but he is rather a practical administrator who believes in promoting and catering to the needs of fellow mankind.

He urges marketers to take good care of the facility when it is built and maintain it properly.

"It is one thing to build these kinds of important structures and another thing to manage or maintain them properly," he says.

"Right now, this is not time for politics. It's time for serious business—for serious development," President Weah continues.

He warns Liberians against listening to politicians that were given just "0.1% of your vote."

"Listen to the one you gave 61.5% of your vote. My greatest preoccupation is to work for the Liberian people who have given me the responsibility to lead them," he says.

In a related development, President Weah has announced government's plans to provide 10 acres of land to the Transport Union of Liberia to build a modern transit facility.

He assures the young people of Liberia, most of them in the transport sector, of his government's continuous commitment and support to improving their situation.

He mandates the Minister of Foreign Affairs to use his good offices to attract support from partners for the construction of a modern headquarters for the Transport Union. --*Press release*

Français

Mission accomplie ! Et quoi après ?

Il semble que la mission de détrôner le juge Kabineh M. Ja'neh, juge associé de la Cour Suprême de la République du Libéria, a été accomplie.

Les membres du Sénat libérien ont voté massivement pour sa destitution le vendredi 29 mars, une initiative qui met fin à des mois de batailles politico-juridiques engagées en 2018 par la Chambre des représentants sur la base de plusieurs chefs d'accusation.

Le Sénat a voté vendredi 29 mars en faveur de la destitution du juge Ja'neh pour avoir donné en faveur des entreprises privées qui étaient opposées au gouvernement dans une affaire d'une taxe imposée aux entreprises pétrolières et gazières pour financer un projet routier. Le juge avait fait valoir que la taxe était illégale car elle n'avait pas été imposée par un acte législatif.

Après sa destitution vendredi, l'un des avocats, Me Lavala Supuwoods, est dit insatisfait de la décision, annonçant qu'il interjetterait

appel devant la Cour suprême.

D'après les avocats du juge Ja'neh, la décision qu'il a prise dans l'exercice de ses fonctions constitutionnelles a été ensuite validée par les cinq juges de la Cour suprême, dont le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, qui a présidé le procès en accusation.

Il a été jugé au Sénat

libérien pour conduite présumée, abus de pouvoir, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraudes et corruption.

À la fin de 2018, le juge Ja'neh a été mis en accusation par la Chambre des représentants mettant en avant quatre charges. Le sénat a été ensuite saisi pour le

renvoyer définitivement de son siège à la Cour suprême.

Le Sénat n'a pas condamné le juge Ja'neh pour le reste des chefs d'accusation, notamment pour avoir usé de son influence pour obtenir une décision favorable de la Cour suprême autorisant la prise de possession d'un terrain litigieux revendiqué par une citoyenne ordinaire âgée de 94 ans,

Mme Annie Yancy Constancell est jugé pour avoir accédé à une requête déposée par deux sociétés pétrolières et ainsi empêché le gouvernement libérien de percevoir une taxe de 0,25 dollar américain imposée sur le prix à la pompe des produits pétroliers pour financer des projets routiers.

L'avocat de l'ancien juge adjoint Ja'neh, Me Supuwood avait en vain prié le juge en chef Korkpor de ne pas permettre que tout le verdict fasse partie des archives du Sénat, alléguant que la procédure de vote était entachée de failles et d'irrégularités.

Le verdict de culpabilité a été inscrit au compte rendu du Sénat après que 22 sénateurs eurent voté en faveur de la destitution.

Sur les neuf sénateurs qui avaient annoncé leur soutien à la décision cruciale du juge Ja'neh quelques heures avant le vote, seuls quatre ont voté contre la destitution et trois autres se sont abstenus.

Les deux sénateurs restants semblent avoir rejoint les sénateurs pro-destitution en vue de condamner l'accusé.

Quelques heures avant le vote, des avocats représentant la Chambre des représentants ont dit craindre que deux factions belligérantes siègent à la Cour suprême si le défendeur était acquitté, au motif que le courant ne passera pas entre le juge Ja'neh et le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor qui a présidé son procès en destitution.

Un résumé de la décision prise par le Sénat lu par le sénateur du comté de Bong, Henry Yallah, révèle que le

Sénat a acquitté le juge Ja'neh sur la plupart des chefs d'accusation, notamment faute professionnelle et manquement flagrant à l'obligation, vol de documents de la Chambre des représentants, affaire Annie Constance très médiatisée.

Sur l'accusation de vol de documents de la Chambre des représentants, 14 sénateurs ont voté coupables, tandis que 12 ont voté non coupables et trois se sont abstenus.

Dans l'affaire concernant l'affaire Constance, 18 sénateurs ont voté coupables, huit non-coupables et trois se sont abstenus. Selon les avocats du juge Ja'neh, le président temporaire du Sénat, Albert Chie, n'a pas respecté l'article 63 de la loi modifiée du Sénat, en ce qui concerne le processus de vote.

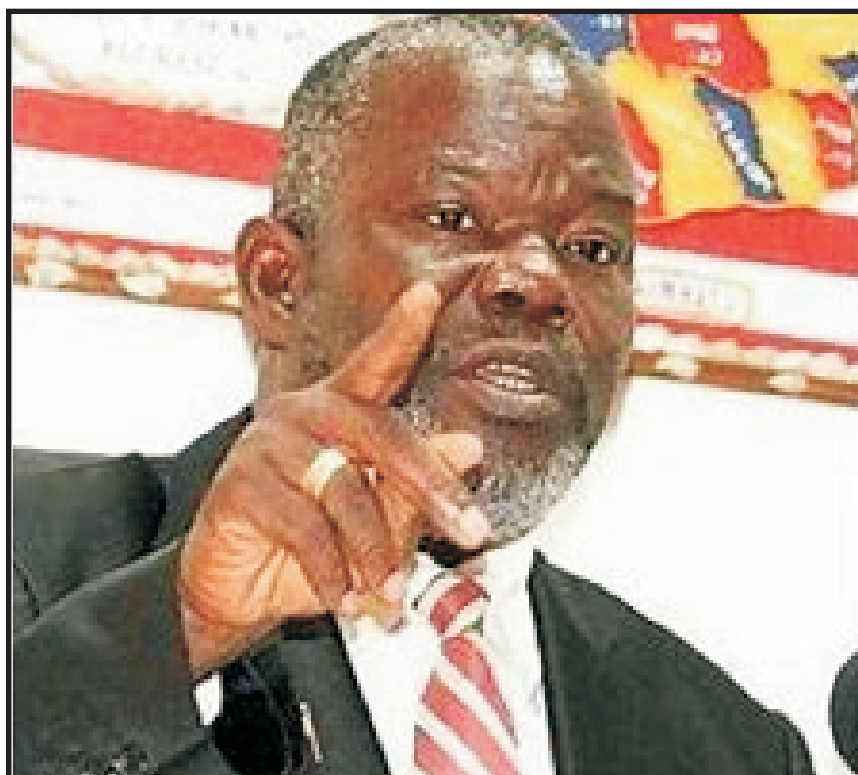
Les avocats ont ainsi demandé au juge en chef Korkpor de rejeter le verdict rendu contre leur client.

La protestation des avocats a incité le juge en chef Korkpor à enquêter auprès de Pro-Tempore Chie afin de déterminer si les documents présentés par les avocats de la défense prouvaient que de nouvelles règles avaient été conçues pour le processus de vote.

Pro-Tempore Chie a toutefois démenti l'accusation, soulignant que ce qui était utilisé était "une simple procédure de vote et non une nouvelle règle telle que revendiquée".

Donnant son verdict, le juge en chef Korkpor a déclaré qu'il doit exister un problème réel pour pouvoir mettre de côté et ordonner un nouveau vote.

« Aucune plainte de fond n'a été portée devant moi pour écarter le verdict des jurés. Sur le dossier relatif au fonds routier, 22 sénateurs l'ont déclaré coupable, quatre non coupables et trois absences. Par conséquent, conformément à l'article 43 de la Constitution libérienne, l'accusé a été reconnu coupable », a déclaré le juge en chef Korkpor.



Burkina Faso: trois civils tués dans une attaque près de la frontière ivoirienne

Trois civils et deux assaillants ont été tués dans la nuit du 29 mars 2019, quand un groupe d'hommes armés a lancé l'assaut contre la brigade de gendarmerie de Yenderé. La réaction des gendarmes a mis en déroute les assaillants.

Les assaillants sont arrivés aux environs de 2h du matin

et ont ouvert le feu sur les gendarmes, selon nos sources. Mais des éléments de la brigade en position avancée ont riposté pour freiner le groupe armé dans sa progression.

Au cours des échanges de tirs, deux attaquants sont abattus. Trois civils, des passagers d'un car de

transport en commun, pris entre les échanges de tirs, ont également été tués. Cette nouvelle attaque contre les forces de sécurité burkinabè a également fait deux blessés par balles.

Face à la riposte des gendarmes, les assaillants n'ont pas pu s'approcher des installations de la brigade. Ils se sont dispersés par petits groupes, afin de s'échapper. « L'alerte avait été donnée à tout le monde sur le risque d'une attaque dans la région » précise notre source sécuritaire, donc « les éléments sont toujours sur le pied de guerre ».

Le poste de Yenderé est situé à l'ouest du Burkina Faso, à 10 kilomètres de Niangoloko, la dernière ville du Burkina Faso avant la frontière ivoirienne. C'est un lieu où il y a généralement du monde de jour comme de nuit, car c'est là que s'effectuent les formalités policières des passagers ou transporteurs qui quittent ou pénètrent le territoire burkinabè.



Articles traduits

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Français

La réforme électorale est impérative

Lors de la récente conférence des parties prenantes à Monrovia, le Comité de coordination des élections (CCE) a souligné le besoin important de réformer la Constitution du Libéria à commencer par nos lois électorales.

Le CCE, dans une déclaration, a mentionné spécifiquement l'article 83 (C) de la Constitution du Libéria, qui délègue des pouvoirs judiciaires à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et lui impose une charge supplémentaire inutile dans son mandat initial d'organiser et de réguler les élections.

Sur le thème: "Renforcer la démocratie du Libéria par la réforme électorale", Oscar Bloh, président du CCE, a expliqué que peu importaient les changements apportés aux nouvelles lois électorales du pays en ce qui concerne les règles et les responsabilités des magistrats, des auditeurs et des commissaires chargés des contentieux électoraux, la NEC reste le tribunal de première

garantissent pas à elles seules la démocratie, mais qu'elles constituent en même temps une exigence fondamentale pour légitimer tout gouvernement démocratique. Il a souligné que s'il est vrai que les élections reposent sur des lois, elles engendrent également des perceptions, et c'est pourquoi il est important que les électeurs perçoivent le processus électoral comme étant impartial, inclusif, transparent et intègre.

En raison de la difficulté de la perception, il est encore plus urgent de réviser et de réformer les lois régissant le processus, car à quoi sert la loi si elle ne rassure pas ou pose un problème de perception?

Nous sommes tous témoins des expériences déplorables des élections présidentielles et législatives de 2017, où l'un des candidats a contesté en justice les résultats du premier tour de l'élection présidentielle, ce qui a conduit la Commission électorale à suspendre toutes les activités électorales afin



instance pour toutes les requêtes électorales, ce qui signifie que la Commission doit enquêter sur des allégations, entendre des témoins, étudier les preuves, autoriser des arguments juridiques, etc. avant de se prononcer sur des décisions, ce, avec des effets néfastes dont notamment le retard.

Nous sommes d'accord avec la proposition du CCE sur la nécessité de réformer nos processus et nos lois afin d'organiser des élections pacifiques et crédibles au Libéria, ce qui favorisera la réconciliation nationale et promouvra la paix et le développement économique.

Les élections sont l'un des éléments essentiels de la promotion de la démocratie participative et pluraliste dans notre système de gouvernement, mais lorsque le processus associé à l'exercice se révèle défaillant, les points soulignés ici ne doivent pas être ignorés.

Le président Bloh a fait observer que les élections ne

d'instruire la plainte déposée.

La bataille juridique s'est poursuivie entre la NEC et la Cour suprême, tout en créant une incertitude économique et politique d'octobre à décembre 2017, avec des conséquences néfastes pour la stabilité économique.

Alors que la prochaine élection présidentielle aura lieu dans cinq ans, il est temps que nous menions une réflexion approfondie et que nous procédions aux réformes nécessaires pour éviter toute gêne future.

Comme le président Bloh l'a souligné, étant donné les erreurs humaines, les lois inadéquates et les problèmes d'infrastructure, il est difficile d'organiser et de mener à bien un processus électoral parfait dans le pays, notant que chaque élection offre aux parties prenantes une occasion de réfléchir au processus électoral et de réviser les lois afin d'identifier les défis et prendre les mesures appropriées pour les résoudre. On dit souvent qu'un point à temps en sauve neuf.

COMMENTAIRE

By Robert J. Shiller

Le boom du marché boursier était-il prévisible ?

NEW HAVEN - Aurions-nous dû savoir, en mars 2009, que la valeur de l'indice boursier américain S&P 500 allait quadrupler au cours des dix années suivantes, ou que la valeur de l'indice japonais Nikkei 225 allait tripler, suivi de près par l'indice Hang Seng de Hong Kong? La sagesse conventionnelle veut qu'il ne soit jamais possible de prévoir le « timing du marché ». Pourtant, on pourrait penser que des évolutions aussi fortes que celles-ci devraient être au moins en partie prévisibles.

Le problème est que personne ne peut prouver pourquoi un boom est arrivé, même après qu'il soit advenu, et a fortiori expliquer comment il aurait pu être prédit. Le boom observé aux États-Unis depuis 2009 est un bon exemple.

Lorsque l'on étudie le marché boursier américain, il est important de garder à l'esprit que les participants sont en grande majorité des investisseurs américains. Selon une étude du gouvernement américain publiée l'an dernier, malgré une légère croissance entre 2009 et 2017, la part du marché boursier américain détenue par des étrangers était encore de seulement un septième en 2017. Or, si tous les investisseurs suivaient les directives des conseillers financiers et optaient pour une diversification complète, les investisseurs non américains, qui détenaient plus de deux tiers de la richesse mondiale l'an dernier, détiendraient plus de deux tiers du marché boursier américain. Le biais du pays d'origine, ou patriotisme, est un facteur important du marché boursier. Ainsi, pour comprendre la force du marché boursier américain, nous devons considérer la pensée de ses participants.

Il semble y avoir eu une réaction excessive aux États-Unis à une baisse temporaire des recettes. Les bénéfices par action du S&P 500 ont été négatifs (un événement très rare) au cours du quatrième trimestre de 2008, à la fois pour les « bénéfices déclarés » que pour les « bénéfices d'exploitation » ; ces chiffres venaient juste d'être publiés en mars 2009, lorsque l'indice a atteint son point le plus bas.

Vous pourriez penser qu'un observateur intelligent aux États-Unis en 2009 aurait compris que la baisse était temporaire et que les bénéfices se seraient ensuite redressés - ce qui est ce qui importe pour prévoir la croissance à long terme des cours boursiers. Mais la vraie question est de savoir si l'observateur aurait pu fonder une prévision très optimiste de croissance des bénéfices à long terme à la suite de cet épisode de résultats négatifs. Nous savons maintenant que les mesures à long terme de la croissance des bénéfices n'ont pas changé beaucoup. La moyenne sur 10 ans des bénéfices par action du S&P 500 entre 2009 et 2019 a augmenté de seulement 71% par rapport à la décennie précédente. Le quadruplement de l'indice des prix du S&P 500 a donc été causé non pas par une augmentation des revenus mais par des valorisations beaucoup plus élevées de ces revenus.

Il est vrai que les taux réels d'intérêt sont en baisse depuis 2009 : les rendements des bons du Trésor américain indexés sur l'inflation à dix ans s'élevaient à 0,8% en février, en baisse par rapport à 1,71% en mars 2009. Mais l'entièreté de cette baisse a eu lieu en 2010 et ne pouvait en rien justifier la forte tendance haussière des cours boursiers depuis lors.

En 2009, certaines personnes aux États-Unis usaient de paroles très fortes pour exprimer leur peur. On entendait parler d'une « supernova financière » à venir. Une recherche ProQuest News & Newspapers sur base des mots-clés « dérivés » et « armes

financières de destruction massive » (phrase attribuée à Warren Buffett) montre que ces deux termes sont apparus ensemble en 2003 et ont connu une forte popularité jusque 2009, pour ensuite se réduire à presque rien à partir de 2018.

Ceux qui étaient assez lucides pour savoir que les marchés dérivés ne pouvaient pas faire exploser l'économie auraient pu savoir que tout ralentissement du marché lié à la crainte que cela soit possible ne pouvait pas persister pendant dix ans. Mais une prévision basée sur une telle prescience est difficile à quantifier ou à défendre publiquement.

Le fait que les économistes dans l'ensemble n'avaient pas prédit la crise financière de 2008 a été beaucoup souligné à l'époque et a conduit à une certaine perte de confiance. En mars 2019, beaucoup de gens craignaient que les actions puissent chuter beaucoup plus bas.

Sous ma direction, la Yale School of Management a recueilli des données sur les opinions des investisseurs institutionnels et individuels aux États-Unis depuis 1989. L'une des questions est: « Quelle est selon vous la probabilité d'un accident catastrophique sur le marché boursier américain, comparable à celui du 28 octobre 1929 ou du 19 octobre 1987, au cours des six prochains mois, y compris un accident causé par la contagion financière d'autres pays? ». Début 2009, le pourcentage de personnes donnant une probabilité supérieure à 10% a atteint un niveau record (depuis 1994).

De même, les statistiques ProQuest News & Newspapers sur l'occurrence de l'expression « Grande Dépression » ont atteint des sommets jamais atteints. Il y a eu plus de mentions « Grande Dépression » en 2009 qu'il n'y en avait eu au cours de la Grande Dépression.

Mais ensuite, en l'absence de krach boursier ou de dépression extrême, ces craintes ont été remplacées par leur contraire: une admiration profonde de la réussite des entreprises. Un nouveau récit a émergé, avec une nouvelle vague de génies milliardaires dont l'apparition dans les années 1990 n'a été que brièvement interrompue par la crise financière. La publication en 2011 du best-seller numéro un Steve Jobs, la biographie de Walter Isaacson du fondateur d'Apple, en est un exemple. Elon Musk a suscité l'excitation avec des entreprises futuristes telles que le fabricant aéronautique SpaceX et Neuralink, qui développe des interfaces cerveau - ordinateur implantables.

L'accession d'un homme d'affaires flamboyant, Donald Trump, à la présidence des États-Unis témoigne de la force de l'identification de nombreux Américains avec des héros d'affaires. À partir de 2004, Trump a passé une grande partie de son temps à développer sa personnalité d'homme d'affaires en tant que star du reality show télévisé The Apprentice puis, à partir de 2008, The Celebrity Apprentice. Sa campagne a mobilisé cet enthousiasme et son affirmation selon laquelle il entendait « rendre sa grandeur à l'Amérique » a parlé à l'optimisme des investisseurs américains.

Le quadruplement des cours boursiers américains depuis 2009, ainsi que l'élection de Trump, semblent ainsi refléter, au moins en partie, un processus de réduction de la peur et de réenchantement avec la culture d'entreprise américaine. Néanmoins, il est difficile de prévoir ces tendances - même les plus fortes - sur le marché boursier, non seulement parce que la prévision est un business très compétitif, mais aussi parce que la spontanéité joue un rôle important dans le comportement humain.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL Innis laid to rest

The remains of a former Senior Staff of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), the late Matthew Innis, have been laid to rest in Brewerville, following funeral services on Saturday, March 30, 2019, at

microfinance sector.”

The tribute, read by the Deputy Head of the Financial Sector Development Unit (FSDU), Mr. George Gould, described as dedicated and selfless, the late Innis’s

family, the Bank expressed the hope that God would continue to strengthen the family.

“You have left a scar on our lives that not even time can heal; a gap in our midst that no pleasure can fill,” a statement by the Regulation and Supervision Department, where the late Innis served as Deputy Director of Macro-finance until his death, said. The tribute was read by Mr. Jedidiah S. Lawubah, Sr. Examiner for Anti-Money Laundering (AML) & Counter Finance Terrorism Unit (CFTU), on behalf of the Regulations & Supervision Department.

The late Matthew Innis was employed at the CBL on April 4, 2000 as a Junior Examiner in the Regulation and Supervision Department; and later promoted to the position of Officer-In-Charge of the Insurance Section in March 2012. He was later promoted to the position of Assistant Director in the Supervision Department. On January 2, 2016, the late Matthew Innis was again promoted as Deputy Director in the Regulation and Supervision Department.

The late Matthew Innis died in a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident early Sunday morning on March 3, 2019, along the SKD Boulevard in Gardnersville. *-Press release*



the Bethel Outreach Cathedral in Sinkor.

In tributes to the memory of the late Matthew Innis, the CBL described him as “a pathfinder for the Forex Bureau Supervision; the trailblazer for the insurance sector; and a touch of reform for the

contributions to the Bank during his 19 years of services. “There are no words to tell you just what we feel inside because Innis’s death came as a shock and a hard blow to all of us,” the CBL said in the tribute. Extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved

CARI employees receive medication from China Aid

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Employees at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County have received free medication from China Aid in Liberia.

The CARI workforce was treated recently to prevent body pains, fatigue, surgery, malaria and typhoid fever, among other diseases.

The medication is intended to strengthen China - Liberia relationship.

China has some of its specialists at some hospitals in Liberia including the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, who have been handling various

an act he terms as a major contribution to the Liberian society.

Surgeon Hao Hong Liang also discloses plans to work vigorously with the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital to ease some of the growing challenges in the health sector.

Speaking to our correspondent, some of the beneficiaries lauded the efforts of China and underscored China’s relations to Liberia.

Mr. David Targpeh, Zipporah Page and Kebbeh Coleman



Police hunt for robbery suspects in Gbarnga

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have launched an investigation into an armed robbery incident that occurred over the weekend in the county.

29 years old Abel Popo narrowly escaped death over the weekend after some unknown armed men broke into his house and placed inhabitants under gun point.

The suspects were said to have made way with LD\$500,000 and USD\$400 including a laptop computer and customers’ phones.

Our correspondent says the robbery occurred around the Frank Joe Community in Gbarnga at 1:00AM.

According to victim Abel Pope, he heard the voices of some unidentified armed robbers that were intruding the victims’ house.

The suspects allegedly announced that they were in search of Abel Pope to kill him if he refused to provide them what they would request for.

According to Abel, the unknown armed men entered and made away with his



business money, laptop and customer’s phones.

Victim Abel Pope is a Gbarnga based money exchanger.

The NewDawn newspaper also solicited the views of some of the community residents that were in their various dwelling places during the robbery incident.

Some of the residents say

they did not come out due to fear that they would have been harmed by the unknown armed men.

They however explain to our correspondent that the unidentified gunmen were all dressed in clothes that made it difficult to identify the suspects.

Korlee Kennedy, one of the residents, explains that he and

cases, and saving the lives of thousands of Liberians.

Speaking through an interpreter, China Aid Head of Delegation Chief Surgeon Hao Hong Liang notes that the medication was meant to foster China -Liberia’s relations.

According to Chief Surgeon Liang, over 100 employees benefited from the exercise at the entity’s facility.

He stresses that China Aid medical team has been able to provide basic medications to over 500 inhabitants in both Maryland and Bong Counties,

admonished the People’s Republic of China through its Embassy near Monrovia to continue their collaborative efforts in aiding Liberians in the health sector.

China has constructed an anti-malaria center in Monrovia and refurbished Liberia’s Ministry of Health headquarters building for \$4.7 million.

China gave the first substantive global response when Liberia was struck by Ebola in 2014.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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his son were in their room when they heard the abnormal noise outside of their house.

He says they decided to protect themselves, yet the robbers took his US\$60 away.

Police Chief Superintendent Federick Nappy says police will do all they can to bring

perpetrators of the crime to justice.

He notes that this is not the first time for cases of such to be reported, maintaining that the police have always tried to arrest those involved in armed robbery cases.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Fire for fire

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

A local group, Special Task Force Revolutionary Group (STRONG) threatens to return fire for fire against anti governmental youth groups and those it terms “lawless” lawmakers in defense of true democracy and good governance.

The group, following a parade in principle streets of Monrovia Monday, April 01, says with membership drawn from various political groupings including the former ruling Unity Party, it will not hesitate to confront chaos-prone agenda, designed to plunge Liberia in unnecessary upheavals as the nation struggles to recover from exploitation of its national wealth.

“It is unfortunate that UP’s leaders and foot-soldiers alike, appear to have jumped to the tragic conclusion that the attainment of democratic power through the ballot box is no longer possible, which may explain their futile desperation to collapse the hard-earned democracy,” says self-styled Supreme Commander, J. Richard Holder.

Addressing a news conference at the monument of Liberia’s first President, the

late Joseph Jenkins Roberts near the dilapidated Docur Palace Hotel in Monrovia, he says they do not take lightly alleged threats uttered by small surrogate groups to overthrow the democratic will

and gone further to take responsibility for a planned (violent) overthrow of constituted authority, calling themselves planners and organizers to alter the will of the electorate.



of the Liberian people, as expressed through the ballot box a year ago.

He notes that quite disappointingly, the leadership of the Legislature is yet to act against some of its members who’ve declared support for,

Mr. Holder calls on the Unity Party and its ‘violent collaborators’ to refrain from their alleged course of chaos, adding, “as we are aware that the UP’s launched campaign to overthrow the democratic order, though it lacks the

capacity, is a distraction to steal attention away from the laudable anti-corruption fight, within which it stands to be held accountable and culpable for massive looting of the national treasury.”

STRONG says it considers as extremely important, a need for the Weah-led government to take several crucial measures deemed necessary to reclaim Liberia’s stolen funds in its ongoing efforts to impact lives of the struggling masses.

It recommends the government should employ expertise of local and international partners to conduct a comprehensive audit of the 12-year activities of the former Sirleaf-led government, to determine the extent to which corruption and economic crimes took place, and then hold culprits accountable.

It also wants immediate steps by the current administration to prosecute former officials, who stand

accused of corruption in over sixty audits conducted by the General Audit Commission.

It wants the Ministry of Justice immediately alerted to prevent those suspected past officials from traveling outside the bailiwick of Liberia; and that the Plenary of the House of Representatives proceed to investigate and suspend some of its members allegedly known as sponsors and architects of a handful of violent group of Liberians campaigning to undermine the rule of law by threatening to violently overthrow the current democratic order.

Meanwhile, STRONG discloses it hold a nationwide non-violent protest to petition the Weah-led government to arrest and prosecute all audit-indictees from the Sirleaf administration and press the 54th Legislature to suspend lawless lawmakers, who it claims, have aligned themselves with anti-democratic forces to undermine the rule of law and democratic governance in Liberia. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Trouble in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Protesters in Weala, Bong County set ablaze two police stations and a magisterial court on Monday, 1 April in venting their anger over the mysterious death of a motorcyclist who was found dead last month in the area.

Our correspondent says the protesters were demanding immediate police investigation into the death of victim Moses Wolopaye when they went on the extreme of burning down the two police stations and the Baypolu Magisterial Court.

In addition to the burning down of the three state facilities, a home belonging to a business man identified as Stephen Tokpa was earlier burned by the protesters.

The protesters, mostly motorcyclists, have accused businessman Tokpa of allegedly murdering their deceased colleague Wolopaye whose death has prompted the protest in county.

Some of the angry motorcyclists who spoke with our Bong County correspondent have accused the police of allegedly showing nothing to convince the public

that they are investigating the matter.

The protesters indicate that they see businessman Tokpa as suspect because his alleged identification card was found on the crime scene.

“When we saw the lifeless body of our colleague, we discovered an ID card belonging to Business Tokpa right by the body. But since the beginning of March, the police have not told us anything,” Jeremiah Sarnoh, one of the motorcyclists says in an interview with this paper.

Sarnoh warns that they will not rest until police launch quick investigation into the matter and come up with findings to the public.

Wolopaye went missing on 1 March, exactly one month before the protest on Monday, 1 April.

The deceased’s lifeless body was discovered on 6 March with parts extracted, according to a resident who refuses to be named.

Police had announced that they had launched an investigation into the incident.

But the rampaging residents comprising mostly of motorcyclists, stormed the first police station and burned it down before going on to burn the next station. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**



It’s official

Starts from back page

over numerous charges.

The Senate voted Friday, 29 March to impeach Justice Ja’neh on account of a decision taken to grant a writ of prohibition that prevented government from collecting road funds taxed against oil and gas companies because it had not been imposed through legislative act.

Following his impeachment Friday, one of Ja’neh’s lawyers

Cllr. Lavala Supuwood noted his client’s exception to the decision, announcing that they will take an appeal at the Supreme Court.

Impeached Justice Ja’neh’s lawyers arguments are that the decision he took in chambers while performing his constitutional duties was further validated by all five justices of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice Francis

Hospital reports

Starts from back page

laps or 4800 meters and make a pass.

According to Mr. Smith, this is the kind of test administered for the past ten (10) or more years since the fitness test was introduced by FIFA.

He details that before the commencement of the test at S.K.D. on Saturday, medics conducted the blood pressure (BP) of all participants as they usually do whenever they are administering fitness tests.

Before the test, Mr. Smith says Referee Massaquoi’s BP was 120/ 80. He says the medical people had said the deceased’s BP was normal for him to run.

Referees who participated in the fitness test came from four counties including Montserrado, Bassa, Nimba and Margibi Counties, respectively.

He describes Massaquoi as a dedicated class “B” member of the Liberia Football Referee Association who attended two different fitness courses, including a FIFA- sponsored course which he passed.

Mr. Smith however says it was surprising for Mr. Massaquoi to fail the fitness test at SKD.

He indicates that heart failure is something that is seen everyday around the world in football and other sports, but the first time to happen in LFA.

The late Massaquoi was a senior student at the University of Liberia, studying Mathematics as major and Economics as minor.

The football house understands he had two kids –a boy and a girl. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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It's official

-Kaba replaces Ja'neh



Newly appointed Associate Justice Yussif Kaba

President George M. Weah appoints Judge Yussif Kaba as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, pending senate confirmation. Upon confirmation, Judge Kaba will replace impeached Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh.

Justice Ja'neh was impeached by the Liberian Senate last Friday for alleged proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, frauds, misuse of power and corruption.

One of the cases which triggered his impeachment

trial related to a land dispute involving a private citizen, Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

Associate Justice Ja'neh was accused by lawmakers of using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of said land.

But former Justice Ja'neh since denied these allegations.

The former Associate Justice Ja'neh hails from the Mandingo tribe and is a key leader within the Muslim community. His successor, Judge Kaba also hails from the same tribe and is a key figure within the Muslim community as well.

Members of the Liberian Senate voted overwhelmingly to effect his impeachment on Friday March 29, a move which has ended months of political and legal battles initiated in 2018 by the House of Representatives



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Hospital reports heart failure

By Sally Gaye

Doctors at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville say Liberian Referee Lackie Massaquoi died of heart failure.

According to the Vice President for Operation at the Liberia Football Association (LFA) Mr. Wilmot Smith, the fallen referee collapsed on the track during a physical fitness test

Saturday, 30 March at the S.K.D. Sports Complex in Paynesville.

Mr. Massaquoi was pronounced dead on arrival by the Doctor on duty at the hospital, and the body has been taken to the Green Pasture Funeral Home in Margibi County.

Following the incident, LFA Vice President Mr. Smith narrates that the fitness test was administered for referees

who did not make a pass during the February 16 test.

He discloses that the fitness test was recommended by world football to be administered every year to know the level of fitness of referees.

As mandated by FIFA, he says all association referees must run the 40x6 meter and the high intensity run 10



Referee Lackie Massaquoi

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